Member.—The *chira* extends over 11 acres and should be protected by stone walls and provided with bathing ghats. The water is good.

Dewan.—Do you say that the whole of the *chira* should have a wall?

Member.—The wall will be necessary only in some places. There is no other reservoir in the taluk. It is useful for all classes of people. The silt should be removed and bathing ghats constructed.

Dewan.—The Chief Engineer says there is no silt. I myself saw the *chira* in Vrichigom last. The water was clear then.

Member.—If the *chira* is seen now, it will appear muddy and covered with weeds.

The Member, continuing, said that, in the hot season, the *chira* became useless and he prayed that it might be improved and provided with bathing ghats.

He next said that the tank to the west of the temple known as the Vazhappalli Padinjarekulam and the Chithrakulam had no water during the summer months. If they were also improved, there would be sufficient supply of water for the town. The people raised some money by subscription and tried to improve the tanks. That was not sufficient. The Member requested that the Maramat Department be directed to effect the necessary repairs and that the tanks might be handed over to the T. I. C. after repair.

The Member also prayed that the village roads in the town might be repaired and handed over to the T. I. C.

Dewan.—As regards these roads, the Government had asked the major Committees whether they would undertake their maintenance with the allotted funds, but some of them were unwilling to take over the management of those roads.

Member.—The Committe at Changanachery are prepared to take up the maintenance with the allotment provided for it.

The Member, continuing, said that the Committee had a surplus of more than Rs. 4,000. He, therefore, prayed that the control over the village roads also might be transferred to the Committee.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

(3) Medical Relief.

105. The Travancore Medical Department.

Revd. Fr. A. J. Michael (Member, T. I. C., Kayankulam) said that the budget allotment for the Medical Department was Rs. 4,39,000, out of which Rs. 2,77,256 was intended for the salary and travelling allowance of the staff. Out of the balance, only Rs. 54,700 was used for the purchase of medical and surgical equipments, including medicines, instruments, ice, bedding, clothing and hospital necessaries, and Rs. 75,000 for dieting. As compared with other less important departments, the Medical Department had only a very small allotment. To increase the usefulness of the department, the Member made the following suggestions:—

(1) The present supply of medicines was not sufficient. The budget allotment for medicines, etc., should be increased by at least 50 per cent.

(2) At present, poor people suffering from disease and unable to attend hospitals became a prey to it for want of medical help. The Medical Officers in each station should attend, free of charge on all patients unable to go to hospitals, within a radius of 2 miles.

(3) The Medical officer should be regularly supplied with up-to-date professional books and journals.

(4) The Durbar Physician should inspect all the institutions at least twice in the year.

(5) Medical officers in charge of institutions should be directed to give periodical lectures to the public, at least once a month, on hygiene, first-aid-treatment and prevention and treatment of common diseases.

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(6) Provision should be made for the Medical officers being given a course of training in the Ayurvedic system of treatment.

(7) Quack allopathic treatment, prevailing largely in Travancore, should be prevented altogether. The Durbar Physician should be invested with the power of bringing such men to book. The Presidencies of Bengal, Bombay and Madras had passed laws on the subject. A similar law should be passed in Travancore also.

(8) Itinerant dispensaries should be established, so that the people who were living in rural parts might be benefited.

(9) If the Government found it difficult to raise the Budget grant, the Member suggested the following measures to increase the allotment for medicines :—

(*a*) The department was overstaffed. For the expenditure of medicines worth Rs. 46,000 there was a staff absorbing Rs. 2,77,256 in the shape of pay. The Member proposed that the present staff might be reduced and their pay and designation modified, thereby saving about Rs. 36,000 yearly.

(*b*) Certain common and simple medicines could be prepared at the Trivandrum Medical stores, instead of importing them from foreign markets at prohibitive cost. That would save a considerable amount.

(*c*) Hill stations, such as Peermade and Devicolam, did not require highly paid Medical officers, who had to be given large sums in the shape of hill allowances. Hospital Assistants should be quite sufficient for such places.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

106. Hardships experienced by the people of Vilavankode in the matter of medical relief.

Mr. N. Sankaranarayana Pillai (Member, Vilavankode taluk) said that the people of the taluk were subject to frequent attacks of malarial fever and other epidemic diseases, that there was no medical institution in the taluk and that the Government themselves had recognised that want and had deputed special medical officers to the taluk periodically. The repeated prayers of the people and the several representations made in the Assembly on the subject had not been so far favourably considered. The people were still persistent in their request and it was with their unanimous approval that the Member brought up the very same subject at the present session of the Assembly also. The people were generally agriculturists and were poor. They could not afford to go to distant places for medical aid and the result was that many premature deaths took place in the taluk. The Mission Hospital at Marthandam managed by Christian Evangelists did not fully meet all their requirements.

Regarding the Vydiasala at the place, the Member said that the physician was not a *qualified* man, although he received a grant of Rs. 10 every month.

Dewan.—Are you sure that the physician is not qualified ?

Member.—Yes, Sir. He has been getting the grant for the past 6 or 7 years.

Dewan.—How far is Parassala from Neyyattinkarai ?

Member.—6 miles. Kuzhithurai also is 6 miles from Parassala.

Regarding the hospital at Parassala, the Member said that the *post mortem* cases at Kuzhithurai were being held in the Parassala Hospital and that the Government were spending money on that account unnecessarily.

The Member, therefore, prayed that a Hospital or at least a dispensary be established in the centre of the taluk, or, if that was not practicable, that the Hospital at Parassala be shifted to Kuzhithurai.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

107. The Kaniyar community and the Native system of medicine.

Mr. M. K. Padmanabha Kaniyar (Member, Nominated) said that by profession the Kaniyars were astrologers and native *Vydians* and that,

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